



ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1876.

Among the bills passed in the Virginia Senate last Monday was one to amend the law in relation to chain gangs so as to provide that any person sentenced to the chain gang, who shall by force or violence escape from the person in charge of the same, shall be confined in jail not exceeding one year, and shall be required to work in such chain gang for such portion of such period as shall be determined by the judge who originally sentenced him. If the escape be without force or violence, the person shall, after serving out his first term of confinement, be confined in jail one month, and shall during that period continue to work in the chain gang.

The Democratic majority in the House, so the Washington Republican says, makes no concealment of its design to attempt to impeach President Grant in the event of the conviction of General Babcock. There is a pretty good chance then of another impeachment, for District Attorney Dyer, in opening the case yesterday in St. Louis, claimed that it would be shown that Gen. Babcock had not only a knowledge of the operations of the Ring, but that he aided the conspirators and received money for his services. Nearly the entire staff of the White House has been called to St. Louis as witnesses. The President has thus been left without any of his secretaries. He has designated as secretary pro tempore his son U. S. Grant, Jr. It is understood that Wm. A. Cook, the criminal lawyer, of Washington, was sent after yesterday, by the President, who engaged his services to assist in defense of Babcock. Cook left for St. Louis to-day.

The Richmond correspondent of the Petersburg Index says:

"Lieutenant Governor Thomas denies that he is writing a novel. He admits, however, that he has entertained the idea of writing his twenty years' experience in the Senate. That's Terry's old talk about twenty years' experience in the Senate; one year Gayle spent on 'the ocean wave,' or in 'the cot beside the sea,' or in some 'Prarie Home,' would be Worth-a-all."

A letter from Fairfax county, written to the Petersburg Index, says: "We are likely to get many valuable accessions to our population from the West, if proper efforts are made to set public sentiment right there as to our condition and resources."

The Committee of the Maryland Senate charged with the investigation of the management of the C. & O. Canal met yesterday and commenced their assigned labor. Several witnesses were examined, none of whom, however, knew anything about the reported corruption except from hearsay.

We have received the first number of the Mercury, published at Milton, N. C., by Messrs. Wallace and Branch, and edited by J. W. Thaxton.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

[For the Alexandria Gazette.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—The House, to-day, passed the bill repealing the Bankrupt act after the first of January, 1877. The "weary and heavy laden" will therefore take notice.

The House Judiciary Committee has reported a bill for the reorganization of the judicial system of the U. S., the main object of which is to relieve the docket of the Supreme Court of the accumulated business. It provides for an intermediate court to be called the Court of Appeals, to be held in each circuit of the United States, and composed of the Justice of the Supreme Court assigned to the circuit with the Circuit and District judges of the several districts. The bill provides for appeals from the judgment of the District Court when the amount exceeds \$500, but from this court appeals may be taken to the Supreme Court when the amount exceeds \$10,000, or when constitutional questions, treaty stipulations, &c., are involved. On motion of Gen. Hunt, Baltimore was stricken out of the original bill as the place in the 4th Circuit where the court should be held, and Richmond was inserted. The court will be an important one, attracting many persons, and Richmond owes Gen. Hunt one for his exertions in her behalf.

The Democratic caucus to have been held to-night to consult upon the currency and other questions, is postponed until Thursday night, and not a few express the opinion that a further postponement would not be objectionable, as it is thought the least said about currency the better.

The death of Mr. Ferry, of Connecticut, was announced in both houses to-day, and eulogies pronounced. Some persons in the galleries of the House not knowing what was going on retired because they said the debate was dry. So we go.

The Centennial bill comes up in the Senate to-morrow and will pass, despite constitutional objections and such.

Mr. Morton has given notice that when Pinchback's case is again brought up in the Senate he wants it disposed of before adjournment for the day, which may or may not be the case, as Mr. M.'s dictum is not now as all-powerful as it was.

Mr. Christiancy, of Wisconsin, of the Senate, to-day took unto himself a wife, and as Alexandria claims the privilege of presenting the bride, a beautiful young blond, the occurrence is worthy of note. Miss Lugenbeal was a clerk in one of the departments, very pretty and agreeable, and young with it all, while the Senator, though "well to do," is by no means young or prepossessing in appearance. Of course the wedding is the topic of conversation and remark all over the city, and Alexandria is credited with another "place," this time, however, only in the affections of a "Liberal Republican." Q.

CITY COUNCIL.

A regular meeting of the City Council was held last night. For official proceedings see another column.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

In this Board there were present Messrs. Janney, McKenzie, Moore, Smoot, Neale, Beach, Downham and Johnson.

Mr. Neale, from the Committee on Public Property, recommended the repairing of the Fish wharf.

Mr. Neale said that the attention of the committee had been called to the Fish wharf by fish dealers, who said that they would be compelled to remove their operations to Washington if the repairs were not made.

Mr. McKenzie asked how much the repairs would cost.

Mr. Neale said probably \$500.

Mr. McKenzie asked why part of the rent should go to the committee.

Mr. Neale said because as there was no money in the treasury the contractors would not be paid unless the committee had the rents. Mr. McKenzie did not believe such to be the case, and thought the credit of the city should not be run down in this way, as it did no good. There was plenty of money in the treasury to pay outstanding claims except interest.

Mr. Neale said he asserted that there were hundreds of warrants out unpaid, and if contractors had to rely on the treasury for their pay, we could not get the repairs to the wharf made.

Mr. Moore thought \$50 or \$100 could be made to do the work, as \$40 had done last year.

Mr. McKenzie opposed the resolution because it looked too pauperish. He would undertake to furnish men and look to the city for the money. He was opposed to letting the committee have the rent, but wanted it put into the treasury as usual. He moved to strike out that clause in the resolution.

Dr. Johnson said the committee had consulted practical men and found it their unanimous opinion that the wharf should be repaired at once. They had thought best to have a portion of the rent at their control so that the workmen could be paid when the work was done. Practical men thought it would cost upwards of \$1200 to repair permanently, but that temporary work could be done for \$500.

Mr. McKenzie thought the resolution was an invitation to fish men to bid low for the wharf, and was a reflection on the treasury. He believed the repairs should be made at once. Why should the town be put in the position of a pauper?

Mr. Moore said he had been a builder and contractor in his time, and knew all about these things. When the Alms House was repaired the lowest bid was \$1200, and the committee had gone to work and it only cost \$300 to make the repairs.

Dr. Johnson offered a substitute for the resolution appointing Messrs. McKenzie and Moore a committee to make the repairs, saying that as one was a builder and contractor and the other offered to furnish the money and look to the city for his pay.

Mr. Neale seconded the substitute.

Mr. McKenzie said there was no difficulty about getting money from the city, and never had been.

The substitute was lost.

The original resolution, with the last clause stricken out, was then adopted.

Mr. Neale, from a majority of the special committee on the old Court House property, reported an act to be presented to the General Assembly, which is as follows:

An Act providing for the sale of the old Court House, in Alexandria, and for the removal of the same to the city of Alexandria, containing one-half square on the west side of Columbus street, and bounded by Columbus, Queen and Princess streets, being the lot on which the old Court House stands, and which was conveyed to the Governor of Virginia and his successors, for the use of the county and Corporation of Alexandria, by authority of an act of the Congress of the United States, approved on the ninth day of July, A. D., 1846, entitled "an act to retrocede the county of Alexandria in the District of Columbia to the State of Virginia."

But, before making sale, which shall be public, county commissioners shall be appointed by the Governor, to-wit: One from the city and one from the county of Alexandria and the third from any other city or county the Governor may designate, whose duty it shall be to ascertain the value of the said property and the relative interest in the same, to which the city and county aforesaid are entitled, and the proportion of State taxation to be the measure by which the said separate interest shall be fixed.

2nd. That of the proceeds of such sale the City Council of Alexandria, and the said county of Alexandria shall be entitled to such proportions as may be ascertained by the Commissioners aforesaid in the manner hereinafter stated, and that the said City Council if it claims and receives its proportion shall furnish to the said county of Alexandria a suitable court-room, record room, clerk's office and jury-rooms, for the use and accommodation of the County Court, and should there be a surplus of such proceeds, after the proper expenditures for the purposes aforesaid, it shall be divided between the said City Council of Alexandria and the said county of Alexandria in the proportion aforesaid, to be paid to the said City Council of Alexandria, or its authorized agent, and to the Treasurer of the county, subject to the order and control of its Supervisors.

3d. That if sale shall be made of said lot as hereinbefore provided, the purchaser shall not take possession thereof until the said City Council of Alexandria has provided the court room, record room, clerk's office and jury rooms, for the use of the said Courts of Alexandria county as hereinbefore provided for, and until such provision is made the said Courts shall be held as heretofore.

4th. That, after the City Council shall have made the provision aforesaid, the same shall be within one year from the passage of this act, the Judge of the County Court shall at once order all the books, papers and records to be removed to the office and rooms as provided, and the Clerk of the County and Clerks of the Courts of Alexandria shall have the same custody, authority and control over all such papers, books and records removed by this, or any previous act, that he had before the same were removed, under the laws in force.

Dr. Johnson said he did not agree with the majority of the committee in the report. He had found the necessity of caution about these things. He did not think that he, who were one of the beneficiaries, could demand the sale of the property while it was occupied by the other. The property would not sell for over \$5,000, and the city derived fully that much benefit every year from the County Courts held there. The county officials had assured him that if the city forced a sale of the Court House, they would demand that the jail be included, and would remove their Court House to the county. The Court House could not be used for a school-house without great expense. The law fixed the Court House in the centre of a county and the county people would demand its enforcement. The people out there would then go to Arlington and spend their money in Washington.

Mr. McKenzie said most of them did that now. Very little money was spent by them; they generally brought their dinners with them, or else did not eat any. He thought that the property should be bought for a school house, and he differed with Dr. Johnson about the revenue derived from those who came to court.

Mr. Neale thought that Dr. Johnson was mistaken about the revenue derived from the County Court. The attendance at it was

very small and scarcely any revenue was derived from it. The Court House was damp and not fit for use; Mr. Ramey was a living example of that fact. The county would be benefited by the change, and they could trade much better, near the Corporation Court room than on Columbus street.

Mr. McKenzie agreed with Mr. Neale, and regretted that so many people from the county died in Washington.

Dr. Johnson thought that we could not afford to estrange any trade. The proposition would be thought result in great injury to the city. If the proposition had come from the county people then it would have been different. He thought that the people of the county should be consulted. It was an easy matter to start this thing going, but not easy to control it afterwards.

Mr. Louis E. Payne, clerk of the County Court, by permission addressed the board. He said that there were very few people in the county who would object to the act. The change would certainly be for their benefit. The records were becoming musty and illegible; the clerks of the court for several years past had been injured in health by the damp condition of the Court House. Hardly an average of twelve men attended any term of the court. The levy for grand jury men the past year was only about \$75. He thought that the records should be removed to a dry and safe place. The people of the county had neither the power nor the money to build a Court House or jail out in the county. The bill specially provided for commissioners to control the fund derived from the sale and require the city to provide a court room.

Dr. Johnson said Mr. Payne was the only official of the court he had heard approve the object. The talk about the health of officers being hurt was all stuff. If the records were musty and illegible it was the fault of the officers not attending to their business and keeping the place clean and well aired.

A question having arisen as to the act being sent to the Common Council, the act was withdrawn, and the action of the Common Council referring the matter to a special committee, was encouraged.

The petition of oyster dealers asking for the abolition of the office of Oyster Inspector was received from the Common Council.

Dr. Johnson said the petition amounted to nothing; of course the dealers did not want to be taxed. The best way to get rid of the matter was to refuse to fill the office. The petition was referred to the Committee on General Laws.

The Board then, at 9:30, adjourned.

COMMON COUNCIL.

The semi-monthly meeting of the Common Council was well attended.

Very much business was transacted without debate. Some conversation occurring upon the subject of Mr. Harlow's motion in reference to printing, which had been referred to the Committee on General Laws, which had never organized, Mr. Moore, from the committee, saying he would endeavor to get a meeting of the committee.

The printing resolution was withdrawn from that committee and referred to a special committee.

The bill of Dr. J. B. Johnson was called up, and the chair laid before Council a communication from Dr. Johnson in relation to the bill.

The Clerk proceeded to read the document, which seemed, so far as read, to contain in part some reflections on Mr. Smoot, on account of his alleged connection with the loss of \$2,000 by the sale of the Friendship steam engine.

The reading was interrupted by Mr. Smoot, who said he did not think Council sat for the purpose of hearing reflections on the conduct of Councilmen in their business capacity as attorneys, or otherwise. He made that point of order.

The Chair sustained the point and said that he was not listening actively, or he would have stopped the reading before. Certainly no parliamentary law permitted the reading of communications which reflected on their conduct as members of the Council.

Mr. Latham said he did not object to the ruling of the President, but he did object to the reasons on which the Chair based his ruling. He held that the people, or any of them had a right to call in question the acts of their representatives.

Mr. Smoot did not think that members of Council came here to hear themselves arraigned. He thought that nothing in parliamentary law would justify the reception of such a paper.

Mr. Latham did not believe in this long-law fight. He wanted the men face to face.

Mr. Smoot denied that acts of Councilmen could be tried in this manner. If they did wrong the only remedy was by an impeachment, but to come here with a tirade in a communication was unparliamentary. If the paper was read it would be only justice to give him, Mr. Smoot, time to formulate an answer.

Mr. Smith—Mr. Chairman, would it be in order to move to introduce Dr. Johnson, and let him make a statement?

The Chair said that that could not be done without unanimous consent, and he would take the responsibility of objecting.

Mr. Smith—The Chair will recollect that there is a precedent for it. Mr. Neale and others have appeared before Council and made statements.

Mr. Latham supported the ruling of the Chair.

Mr. Smith—Will the gentleman give a reason.

Mr. Latham—Because I do not wish Council to be made a debating society.

The Chair said the pending question when Council adjourned at the last meeting was on Mr. Latham's amendment to Mr. Smoot's resolution, both of which were read.

Mr. Broders introduced an amendment directing the Committee on Public Property to sell the lot on which the Friends' Engine House is built. He said that Council was wasting time in considering Dr. Johnson's bill. There had been no order of Council to do the work, why consider the matter further.

Mr. Latham rose to a point of order, that the resolution was out of order.

The Chair decided the resolution in order as a substitute.

Mr. Latham appealed from the decision of the Chair, and was proceeding to discuss the point.

The Chair held that debate was not in order. Mr. Hopkins sought to explain his vote.

Mr. Smoot raised the point of order that the vote could not be explained.

The Chair held that Mr. Hopkins could not speak, and he took his seat.

The decision of the Chair on Mr. Latham's point of order was sustained.

Mr. Latham was proceeding to discuss the matter, when Mr. Smith walked up and down the chamber several times. Mr. Latham thereupon took his seat.

The Chair—The gentleman will talk until we have order. I want gentlemen to listen.

The Chair—Gentlemen will keep order.

Mr. Smith—Am I out of order? I did not know I was interrupting the gentleman.

Mr. Latham urged that there was a precedent for this bill. Dr. Johnson had advanced money before several times to the public; once \$750, to repair the Lanesian Free School, and at another time \$350 to repair the Court House. Why should not this advance be repaid? He was sorry that Dr. Johnson was so obnoxious that he could not get justice.

The subject was further debated by Mr.

Hopkins, who said that to sell the house would have the effect to break up the Friendship Company, and deprive the whole upper portion of the city of the protection of the only fire company there. Even the ringing of the bell was a protection.

Mr. Smoot thought the Friendship Company was already as well broken up as it could be. He explained his view of the law in reference to the sale of the house, and the results of the sale.

Mr. Evans said it seemed to be a monstrous hard thing to discuss that resolution and keep off of the poor Friendship Fire Company. It was very hard, too, for a gentleman to try to do one thing, and at the same time to make people believe that he was doing something else. He moved to refer the matter to the Committee on General Laws. [Laughter.]

The motion was lost.

The substitute directing a sale of the lot was also lost—yeas 4, nays 12.

Mr. Hughes introduced a substitute for selling the Friendship lot for \$250. Mr. Hughes urged that by this means Dr. Johnson could buy the lot and owe it, and the city would get rid of supplying gas free, and could tax the property, which was now free of tax.

Mr. Hughes' substitute was laid on the table.

Mr. Latham's motion, pending from last meeting, to pay Dr. Johnson's bill was lost—yeas 3, nays 13.

The question then recurred upon the resolution of Mr. Smoot, that Dr. Johnson's bill be paid on condition that the Friendship Fire Company first execute a deed conveying the engine house to the city, and it was adopted—yeas 13, nays 3.

Mr. Latham then called up his resolution for the appointment of a committee to devise changes in the city charter, particularly in reference to the election of officers by the people.

Mr. Hopkins moved to amend by instructing the committee to enquire into the expediency of changing the charter.

The Chair—Does the gentleman accept the amendment.

Mr. Latham—No sir, if I wanted to stab it, I could have done it myself. I want action.

Mr. Smoot objected to the form of the resolution. He thought the charter a very good one as it stands.

Mr. Latham supported his resolution by a speech of some length, and said that the present charter was gotten up by a self-constituted committee.

Mr. Smoot, in reply, said that the charter was reported by a committee of Council, discussed in Council, and passed by Council. The charter was adopted to keep the control of the city in the hands of the white people. He would move, as a test, to lay the resolution on the table.

After further debate by Mr. Smoot and Mr. Hopkins, the motion to lay on the table was lost—yeas 6, nays 10.

The resolution was then adopted—yeas 10, nays 6.

Mr. Smoot called up the subject of paving King street, and after a short discussion, the Board adjourned.

LEGISLATIVE.

In the Virginia Senate, yesterday, Mr. Hinton called up the resolution recalling from the House Senate bill in relation to the repeal of the charter of the Montpelier Association, and moved that it be tabled indefinitely. Mr. Hinton during his remarks said that every individual member of the Board of Trustees of that association who had been guilty of dereliction of duty should be held responsible in dollars and cents. Mr. Hinton spoke in very plain language in relation to the conduct of the trustees. Senator Smith, of Nelson, who is one of the trustees, asked Mr. Hinton to whom did he refer. Mr. Hinton replied, "I intend it for you as much as for any other trustee."

Mr. Smith replied that he wanted Mr. Hinton to understand that this was the Senate of Virginia, and not a Ward meeting in Petersburg.

The debate was continued at some length, between Messrs. Smith and Hinton, and was very spicy.

The resolution offered by Mr. Hinton was withdrawn.

The vote was taken on recalling the bill from the House, and was carried in the affirmative.

In the House of Delegates, the committee, entrusted with the matter, reported adversely upon the proposition of Wm. Virginia inviting the State of Virginia to make an appropriation towards the erection of a monument at Point Pleasant in the former State.

Senate bill incorporating the Richmond Aged Women's Humane Association, was passed.

The bill to permit the Richmond City Guard to uniform themselves in such manner as they may decide, was taken up, but pending the discussion, the hour of special order arrived.

The bill appropriating \$30,000 to the University of Virginia, was taken up, the question being the amendment, giving the Hampton Normal School \$3,000. This was advocated by colored delegates, Poinceter, Ruffin, P. K. Jones, and Branch, and by Mr. Gordon, and opposed by Messrs. Bagwell, Smith, of Fauquier, and Massey, and was defeated.

FOREIGN NEWS.

In the course of the debate in the British Parliament, yesterday, on the address to the Queen, Mr. Disraeli in the House of Commons and Lord Derby in the Lords defended the course taken by the Government in the purchase of the Khedive's shares in the Suez Canal, the slavery circular, and the qualified approval of the reforms in Turkey proposed by Count Andrassy's note. The address was passed in both Houses.

The steamship Rotterdam, on which Winslow, the Boston foreigner is supposed to be a passenger, was at Gravesend yesterday, coaling.

It is reported that the Austrian squadron has been ordered to Kioek.

The London World denies the story of the Marquis of Ripon's gift of £10,000 to the Pope.

The Wallachian Chamber has voted four million of piastres for army equipment. During the debate on the question the War Minister repeated the assurance that the government's policy was pacific and neutral.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

The most destructive fire that has occurred for years in the city of New York happened last evening. It broke out in Grand street, and before it could be brought under control had demolished nearly the entire block bounded by Broadway, Grand, Crosby and Howard streets. About thirty stores and dwellings were destroyed. One firm on Broadway suffers to the extent of \$1,000,000, and the total loss is roughly estimated at \$3,000,000. Three firemen were killed by the falling walls and others were injured.

E. A. Bennett, Auditor of West Virginia, was yesterday acquitted of articles of impeachment preferred against him by the Legislature during the past session. The vote on the third article came within one of having the required two thirds, it standing guilty 1, not guilty 9.

Rear Admiral Silas H. Stringham, of the United States navy, died at his home in Brooklyn last Monday.

LETTER FROM RICHMOND.

Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]

RICHMOND, Feb. 8.—The gamblers here are in a terrible plight. They have been obliterated for the present, root and branch. To-day in the Hustings Court Andrew Muller, charged with keeping a faro bank, was sent to jail for twelve months and fined \$100, and Thomas Russell, charged with perjury in swearing that he did not know that Muller kept a faro bank, was fined \$5 and sent to jail for twelve months.

Russell made a long confession, stating that he was led to act as he did by a bribe of \$50 offered him by Muller. Joe Graves, a professional, charged with dealing the game in the same establishment, has left the city, and thereby forfeited his bail—\$500. It is said that before he left he paid the \$500 to his bondsman. He remarked to a friend that if it was any other time he would stay, but that he really could not miss the Centennial. If Judge Guigou induces the legislative and judicial parties charged with gambling he could do nothing more with them than fine them \$30, which is all the law provides in such cases. Wortham and all of the other professional gamblers have left the city, and in the gambling quarters all is still as death.

The Virginia Press Association meets to-morrow (Wednesday) at the St. James Hotel.

I understand the Independents held a secret meeting a few days since and resolved that if the Senate seated Johnson they would put out an entire Independent ticket in the coming municipal election with the exception of the City Treasurer and Collector.

The University bill was up to-day in the House again, and ex Gov. Smith spoke in advocacy of it. Peter R. Jones spoke in favor of amending the bill so as to give the Hampton Institute \$3,000. He said last year when you gentlemen on that side wanted to get the appropriation bill for Blacksburg College through a vote here and told us on this side if we would go with you you would go with us when we asked for help for Hampton School. We went, and without us you wouldn't have carried that bill, and now when we ask you for your refusal. And the House still refused to pass the amendment. The bill is still pending.

The Board of Trustees of the Richmond Baptist College, last night, adopted resolutions against the proposed appropriation of \$30,000 to the University for the education of young men over 18 years of age free of charge, as unfair to Richmond and all other colleges in the State. For the life of me I can not see how it will hurt the other colleges. I know some of the denunciations regard the University as an Episcopal College, because the majority of the board of trustees of that college are members of that church, but why should this injure the other colleges I can not see. I think if the bill will pass it will be one of the noblest measures yet adopted by the Legislature, and that body certainly has plenty of room to expand in that way.

Miss Kellogg, the prima donna, arrived in the city to-day. She is decidedly a favorite with the Richmond opera going public and will have full houses.

The boys have a new name now for that disposition so habitual to a legislator. They say "he is suffering with a leeked up liver."

Mr. John Bill Bigger, the clerk of the House, has been quite ill for some days past. He is now better.

The ministers of the city will probably proceed against the Southern Association history Sunday. It is an evil thing that benefits the city none.

The colored people have at last seen the importance of taking care of their aged people. The bill appropriating the "Aged Home Association" passed the House to-day. It has for its object the proper maintenance of the aged colored people. STRONGBOW.

Letter from Rappahannock.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]

WOODVILLE, RAPPAHANNOCK CO., VA., February 8, 1876.—Three fatal accidents have occurred in this county during the last two weeks, the unfortunate victims being all colored women. The first of them was a girl, Julia, in the employ of John Young, near Woodville, who attempted to kindle a fire with coal oil, and the flames following the oil to the can burst it and enveloped the unfortunate and careless woman in a sheet of flames, which were not arrested till her clothes were entirely burnt off. She died in a few days, after terrible sufferings. The second was a woman, Evevine, near the State Mills, whose dress, a calico one, caught while she was standing in front of a fire place, with her back to the fire. In her agonies, she set fire to two beds, which were entirely destroyed, and to the building, the latter, however, being extinguished before any damage was done. It appears she attempted to smother the flames by jumping into the beds and covering herself with the bed coverings. The third case occurred in the neighborhood of Washington, our county seat, and was similar to the one just described.

The gale on Tuesday night last, which passed over this region, was the severest we have had for many years, and the damage done was considerable, though not serious. We learn of several houses, one or two buildings and some other structures that were blown down, and all more or less, demolished, in one instance the roof of a large mill, near Sperryville, having been blown off. The damage to farming was general, but few farms escaping some loss. There was no loss of life, but many houses were shaken as if by their foundations, in several cases causing a complete panic to the persons inside.

The time during which our public schools are in session, expired on Friday last, though some of them will be continued as private schools for the remainder of the school year.

A new distillery has been built and now in operation at Bloomfield, five miles from this place, on Thornton river, owned by A. T. Walden, with Mr. Wood as store-keeper. The whiskey made is said to be of a very fair character.

We have had the first snow of the season, following immediately upon the precipitate retreat of his prognostic hog-pig, who scented snow and foul weather for the next forty days, lastly betook himself to the more congenial shade of